Electricity through a new kind of Antenna

3139. SHRI Y.S. RAJASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a number of villages electricity is being provided through a new kind of antenna pointing at the sun giving thousands of Indians in rural areas their first encounter with electricity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of villages to be benefitted therefrom; and

(d) the other purposes for which is this energy being used?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (d). Electricity obtained by direct conversion of solar energy through photovoltaic panels mounted on roof tops, poles and other structures is being used for a variety of applications in rural areas such as street lighting, domestic lighting, water pumping, television, etc. About 40,000 systems for these applications have been installed in nearly 8000 villages in the country. Small solar power plants of one to ten kilowatt capacity have been established in about 50 villages. Solar lanterns, which are portable lighting devices are also being tried in the country. The use of photovoltaic systems for specialised applications has also been increasing in recent years. Examples of this are power for off-shore oil platforms, microwave repeater stations, railway signalling, telecommunications, etc.

[*Translation*]

Hydel Power Projects of Uttar Pradesh

3140. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work of 'Srinagar Hydel power Project' in the Pauri district of Uttar Pradesh and 'Vishnu Prayag Hydel Power Project' in the Chamoli district have been stopped;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the project-wise amount allocated for those two projects in the year 1989-90 and 1990-91, 1991-92 separately;

(d) whether a provision has been made in yearly plan of 1992-93 for the allocation of funds for these projects;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b). The construction works has slowed down due to fund constraints and land acquisition problem in the case of Srinagar Hydro-electric project and due to fund constraints and want of environment clerance in the case of Vishnu Prayag Hydro-electric Project.

(c) Amounts allocated for Srinagar and Vishnu Prayag Hydel Power Projects during the years 1989-90 to 1991-92 are as under: